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## Memorandum

Date: January 22, 1999

To: Roger Patterson  
Regional Director  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

From: Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

Subject: Tracy Fish Facility Improvements

After extensive agency and stakeholder discussions, CALFED has reached the conclusion that the proposed Tracy Fish Facility Improvements are a critically important element of the Stage 1 actions and need to move forward expeditiously. The proposed facilities would provide best available technology screening for up to 2500 cfs at an approach velocity compatible with delta smelt salvage, and with the structural and operational flexibility to optimized screening operations for multiple species in the challenging south Delta environment. The facility can provide important information to guide the development of screening facilities and for the SWP intake facilities as well, if it can move forward rapidly.

The original Bureau proposal for a 250 cfs test facility has been extensively modified to be compatible with the CALFED process and has resulted in broad-based support for the proposal. In recent discussions two residual concerns about the proposal have been discussed. These concerns about the facility were expressed in the Diversion Effects on Fish Team and elsewhere. One concern was primarily based on the perception that the proposed program would not allow for full scale operational screening of the total Tracy pumping capacity prior to the close of Stage 1. However, as currently contemplated, the proposed program would move quickly toward full operation with monitoring and refinement built into the longer term screening implementation process. The other concern centered on the implicit decision to maintain two diversion points in the south Delta, at least for the duration of Stage 1, rather than consolidate SWP and CVP diversions into a single screened facility for Clifton Court Forebay. This boils down to a judgment call in which the opportunity to move forward quickly with a well developed proposal which can provide near term reductions in fish impacts and future operational flexibility must be weighed against the risk of significant stranded costs should the decision be eventually made to consolidate

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### CALFED Agencies

California    The Resources Agency  
                  Department of Fish and Game  
                  Department of Water Resources  
                  California Environmental Protection Agency  
                  State Water Resources Control Board

Federal        Environmental Protection Agency  
                  Department of the Interior  
                  Fish and Wildlife Service  
                  Bureau of Reclamation  
                  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

Roger Patterson  
January 22, 1999  
Page Two

diversions. In CALFED's judgment, the benefits of moving forward with this program now and the flexibility provided by two diversion points for fish management, far outweigh the risk of stranded costs.

In summary, the Bureau's proposal offers very significant short-term and long-term benefits in terms of direct reductions in fishery impacts, additional operational flexibility, and technology development for additional screening in the south Delta. Please advise us as to what actions CALFED can take to support the implementation of this proposal.